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CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM • LUCHE POR EL COMUNISMO • PLP

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MAY DAY, WORKERS' DAY!

Our History, Our Day

May Day is the working class's international holiday. It's a day when workers from across the globe march to commemorate our triumphs, propelled by a vision of a world without exploitation, without capitalist borders, and run by the working class.

Continued on page 8

BROOKLYN

CHICAGO

MEXICO

JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION



OUR FIGHT

✰Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

✰The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

✰Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

✰While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

✰Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

✰Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

✰Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

✰Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

✰Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

✰Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorial

No blood for oil! Smash all imperialists!

The latest crisis bulletin from the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is a stark reminder that the capitalist bosses stand ready to sacrifice millions of workers' lives to preserve their profit system. The IPCC now projects global temperatures to rise even higher than the deadly target of 1.5 degrees Celsius agreed upon by the bosses at the 2015 Paris Accords (Guardian, 4/6). Extreme weather-linked disasters—wildfires, floods, droughts, hurricanes—are certain to get worse. Barring a fundamental change of course, one of three plant and animal species may be extinct by 2050 (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences). None of these trends are "natural" or inevitable. All are the products of capitalism and the bosses who rule us—the parasites who must be destroyed for the good of the international working class.

Following the ruthless logic of capitalism, the top imperialist powers—the United States, Russia, and China—are doubling down on life-destroying fossil fuels as they intensify their competition over energy supplies, markets, and distribution routes. The world's latest blood-soaked conflicts, from Ukraine to Yemen to Ethiopia, reflect the raging volatility and high stakes of these imperialist struggles. The rulers are hurtling down a path toward world war and nuclear destruction—the ultimate "climate change."

Under capitalism, all current and future scenarios spell death for workers, from endless proxy wars to mass starvation. Only the working class, armed with its mass communist Progressive Labor Party and international Red Army, has the power to end this misery. Through communist revolution, we will turn the guns around on the imperialist butchers and build an egalitarian society on a habitable Earth.

Bloody oil war in Ukraine

The imperialist bloodbath in Ukraine is a clear result of the necessity of oil and natural gas to the bosses' system. The pitched battle that has already killed thousands of workers and displaced millions more is directly connected to Ukraine's importance as a hub for pipelines that channel Russian energy throughout Europe. The struggle to dominate Ukraine has nothing to do with the capitalists' phony framework of "democracy versus authoritarianism." In reality, it's a brutal power struggle over energy supremacy.

Capitalist nations across Europe are so dependent on Russian gas to power their economies that it continues to flow through Ukrainian pipelines seven weeks after the start of the invasion. Despite desperate efforts by the U.S. imperialists and their NATO allies to sanction Russia into submission and isolate President Vladimir Putin on the international stage, the Russian bosses have so far weathered the storm. The value of the ruble recently bounced back to pre-war levels (CBS News, 4/8). Even with the U.S. and Europe threatening to end their dependence on Russian fossil fuels (a mostly empty threat to date), President Vladimir Putin and his gang of billionaires have found opportunistic buyers in India and China for billions of barrels of crude oil (oilprice.com, 4/9).

In the wake of their humiliating collapse in Afghanistan, the U.S. imperialists have shot themselves in the foot yet again in Ukraine. If anything, U.S. sanctions have drawn Russian and Chinese imperialists into a tighter alignment against their shared enemy in the West. After Russia was cut off from global financial systems, China bought Russian oil and coal in their own currency, the yuan, instead of the once-standard U.S. dollar, a direct challenge to U.S. economic dominance and control (Markets Insider, 4/7).

Big Fascists' desperation = more volatility

U.S. President Joe Biden and the finance capital Big Fascist wing of the U.S. oligarch ruling class are desperate to deflect blame for skyrocketing fuel costs to save face among voters and maintain their slim edge over their Small Fascist rivals, the "America First" wing now centered in the Republican Party. In this fight-to-the-death internal rivalry, "climate justice" will take a back seat every time. So it was no surprise when Biden announced a plan to release a million barrels of oil per day over the next six months from the country's Strategic Petroleum Reserve. The U.S. then convinced over 30 allied capitalist nations in the International Energy Agency to release millions more (NPR, 4/6).

But even as the Big Fascist imperialists struggle to contain gas prices and show some unity in their ranks, their growing weakness is glaring. Beyond their inability to prevent rival Russia from grabbing more of Ukraine, or to stop their European "allies" from forking over more than $1 billion a day for Russian gas and oil (Los Angeles Times, 3/7), the U.S. bosses have watched their once-firm influence over the oil-rich Arabian Peninsula slip away. Biden tapped into the Strategic Reserve after failing to convince the capitalist bosses in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to produce significantly more oil. They reluctantly agreed to a modest increase—and only after the U.S. bosses promised more Patriot missiles for the Saudis' continued slaughter of workers in Yemen (WSJ, 3/21).

While the shock to the global oil market has meant a bonanza in profits for Aramco, Saudi Arabia's state-run oil company, there are political reasons for the Saudi rulers' hesitancy. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has not forgotten Biden's attacks on his regime after its brutal 2018 murder of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi. What's more, the Saudi bosses have drawn closer to President Vladimir Putin since Russia joined its oil cartel OPEC-Plus in 2016 (Energy Intelligence, 2/28).

As the U.S. empire grows more isolated, so too will its desperation. As China and Russia strengthen their relationship and once-reliable allies cut deals at the U.S. expense, the Big Fascists will be pushed to take more aggressive measures to regain lost ground—with workers paying the price.

Communism will end crises of capitalism

From Chernobyl to Washington, DC, from Somalia to Iraq, workers suffer from the imperialist drive for profits. But in all of these places and more, we see our class fighting back. We must keep fighting for our common class interests as we build the PLP. We need an international communist revolution to stop the capitalist bosses and their oil wars from spilling our blood.

Only a communist society can create an ecologically sustainable future. Only a communist world will eliminate production based on profit and replace it with a system based on workers' needs. The working class has the capacity to smash the lethal fossil fuel industry at the point of production and to end the carnage of imperialist war for all time. To fight back against the bosses' nationalism, racism, and sexism, we need communist internationalism to raise working-class consciousness and build for revolution. Our fightback, based on political education, collective actions, and the international growth of our revolutionary communist PLP, will lead us to victory. Join us!✪

DC bus workers fed up with bosses' profit drive

WASHINGTON, DC, April 13—Bus operators at the D.C. Circulators are fighting back—96 percent of them voted to strike for wages and benefits after holding two vigorous protests where negotiations were taking place. These 150 operators have been paid lower wages than their Metro transit counterparts for over a decade, and the workers are fed up! Their struggle shows how the racist capitalist system especially oppresses Black workers and attempts to divide workers even in the same union from their brothers and sisters.

Progressive Labor Party (PLP) has been helping lead the fight for wage parity among transit workers in the DC area for many years, and helped organize and lead the two rallies. But wage parity is not enough. Any wages mean the capitalists are profiting off of our labor. We will keep struggling endlessly to destroy capitalism and its profiteering bosses.

Make strikes schools for communist workers' power

Workers that can organize strikes can run society and we would run it to benefit all workers, not racist, sexist, profiteering capitalists. That's communism. Industrial workers are key to building such a revolutionary movement and the PLP has been raising class consciousness and multiracial unity through our work in the union for decades. The predominantly Black workforce in the transit industry in DC makes any attack on this group of workers a racist one, and we are calling this out for what it is.

Despite shady manipulation by the union's lawyer who signed off on a 30-day contract extension with the company, workers showed up on their day off to vote and spread the word throughout the company to vote Yes for a strike. The Circulator operators belong to the 13,000-member ATU Local 689 but are saddled with a separate, inferior contract with a private contractor, RAPTDEV, an international company that exploits workers all around the world, and makes billions doing so. A key part to winning any strike at the Circulator is gaining the support of Metro workers throughout the system.

The son of a Circulator operator took pride in developing an energizing playlist of fightback songs to keep the picket line at the rallies going. While we started with the classic chant of "The workers united, will never be defeated!" union members on the picket line also joined in with a new chant on the spot mocking RAPTDEV's offer of a 30 cent/hour raise saying "30 cent ain't sh*t!" (which we all really enjoyed chanting). At one point the company lawyers came downstairs to observe the rally from inside the hotel lobby, and militant workers yelled and banged on the window until they fled like the dogs they are with their tails between their legs.

Safety blitz upsets bosses; communism will eliminate them

Union mechanics and organizers did an early morning safety blitz to make sure Circulator workers were being assigned safe buses by management, another tactic to fight RAPTDEV. Many operators had to go from two to three buses to find one that worked! Management routinely tries to intimidate operators into taking out unsafe buses, from broken horns to non-working turn signals. One bus had such poor brakes that the bus slid! The drive for profit supersedes any safety regulations under capitalism. But bolstered by worker solidarity, operators reported all unsafe buses to management. Management was so upset by our safety blitz presence that they called the cops on us!

At each rally, PL'ers distributed CHALLENGE and expressed solidarity with the workers. One PLP member gave a speech connecting the struggle at Circulator to similar union fights at Howard University and Amazon warehouses. Many workers were inspired to hear that their fight is supported far and wide, and opens the way to understanding the need to take the road to communist revolution.✪



Strike for higher wages; organize for communism

Article coming next issue

57-Years Strong

PLP Fights for communist world

April 17 marked the 57th anniversary of the founding of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP). From a meeting of barely two dozen members of the old U.S. communist movement, PLP has grown into an international party now organizing across continents.

In these years, PLP was the first to back the 1964 Harlem Rebellion, fought off racist school segregationists in Boston in 1975, integrated Chicago's Marquette Park, organized and supported workers strikes worldwide, were the first to organize mass demonstrations for the U.S. to "Get Out of Vietnam!" broke the U.S. travel ban to Cuba, mobilized against racist killer cops, and have led more than a hundred thousand protesters against the Ku Klux Klan and neo-Nazis across the United States.

We have reached workers in Africa, Asia, South America, the Caribbean, Europe, and North America. PLP has also advanced communist ideas: from rejecting nationalism to fighting directly for communism rather than moving first through a transitional phase of socialism.

Over our first half-century, PLP has propelled the march to communism—first by leading anti-racist, working-class struggle, and through that struggle advancing communist ideas. This two-pronged strategy—practice and theory—is the basis for winning masses of workers to fight for communism.

Why communism? In our vision, the working class will determine the future of society. It will destroy the capitalist world and its brutal exploitation. It will smash a system that drives us into constant unemployment and poverty. It will stop the racism that drags down all workers. It will terminate the racist cops who break our strikes and kill our Black, Latin, Asian,immigrant, and white sisters and brothers. And it will end for all time the imperialist wars that send our youth to kill their class brothers and sisters worldwide, all for the bosses' profits.

We are a mighty but small force as the world accelerates towards fascism and war. We urge all workers and youth to join us in the next half-century in this historic task: to organize a communist revolution.

CUNY: PLP exposes liberal racist ideas, grows CHALLENGE

BROOKLYN, NY—As we mark the midterm exam season, students, faculty, and members of the Progressive Labor Party at our CUNY (City University of New York) college campus have hit the ground running with antiracist, antisexist and anti-imperialist fightback! As imperialist wars ravage more and more workers around the world each day, antiracist students, faculty and PL'ers inspired by fightback in New Jersey are building a movement to smash capitalism once and for all.

Lead multiracial fightback

Following a gang-related shootout that killed twelve year-old Kade Lewin in the primarily Black working class East Flatbush neighborhood, the NYPD has launched a racist occupation force in the name of "fighting crime." The NYPD has disrupted everyday life for thousands of workers with convoys of vehicles and floodlights. Each night at 8pm, NYPD helicopters hover close to the ground, making it difficult for children to sleep, all in the name of catching the criminals. As U.S. imperialism attempts to encircle its imperialist rivals Russia and China, this encirclement of the Black workers' residences has nothing to do with "fighting crime." Instead, it is about attempting to instill racist terror among the working class.

Meanwhile, in our campus club, PL'ers and friends had been tabling for weeks and showing the video of the racist police attack on the Rodwell-Spivey family in New Jersey, while collecting signatures to support the family's legal defense of Justin Rodwell. Two young Black women students watched the video, and commented that the Newark PD behaves "exactly like they do in East Flatbush, especially since the murder of Kade Lewin."

These young working-class women saw through liberal Mayor Adams' racist lies about the nature of "crime" in Black neighborhoods, and knew something had to be done.

No good politicians in a racist system

Following a rush of student support and more than 50 students joining our campus club, more students began drawing connections between the racist police terror in liberal Democrat strongholds of Newark, NJ and East Flatbush, NYC. Campus staff, as well as majority Black cafeteria and custodial workers and CHALLENGE readers have also joined in organizing. Our growing student-worker alliance is connecting racist police terror in the U.S. to the sharpening inter-imperialist wars — and the need for a mass revolutionary party, not "better" politicians.

Continued on page 5

Pakistan: amid crisis, workers & PLP fight on

PAKISTAN, April 13—Prime Minister Imran Khan has been ousted by a no-confidence vote spearheaded by politicians aligned with the Pakistan military. The turmoil in the Pakistan ruling class is driven by competing factions within the ruling class and their ties to the big imperialists in the U.S. and China. As the bosses fight over Pakistan, the working class, suffering under extreme inflation and poverty wages, is fighting back with large demonstrations in many areas of industry . These demonstrations are demanding higher pay and other benefits people need to survive.Progressive Labor Party (PLP) is working to build a revolutionary communist movement for revolution and workers' power among our friends and fellow workers in these struggles.

The departing ruling political party—responsible for the high rate of inflation, exploitation and fascism—has now started to say that the U.S. bosses have chalked out a plan for regime change with the help of the opposition. The reality is that Khan and his faction had managed to sour relations with both the U.S. and Chinese bosses. Khan upset the U.S. bosses by supporting the Russian Invasion of Ukraine. Simultaneously the Khan faction lost the confidence of the Chinese ruling class. First in 2018 by threatening to kill the extensive Belt and Road projects in Pakistan (Yahoo news, 4/13). They backed down on that threat but in the last few months have failed to make payments owed to the Chinese bosses for electric power plants and other Chinese constructed projects in Pakistan (Eurasian Times 3/22).

Big imperialists force changes in Pakistan

Khan and his group have failed to bring down inflation and are sparking anger among the military which is one of the largest business owners in the country with assets of over $100 billion, including large amounts of oil and banking businesses (Asia Times, 3/8/19). The high inflation was also causing concern among the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which was holding up a promised $6 billion loan to the country.

All of this was too much for the military bosses whose business arrangement relies on Chinese investment and exports to the U.S. This led to the ouster of the Khan government and the insertion of Shebaz Sharif, the brother of a three time Prime Minister and one of the wealthiest families in the country. Immediately both the Chinese and the U.S. bosses sent messages of congratulations.

The removal of Khan is a prelude to a bigger struggle in Pakistan as the struggle between the Chinese and U.S. bosses will now sharpen inside Pakistan. The immediate question will be around the war in Ukraine where the U.S. will try to get Pakistan to buck China and impose sanctions on Russia. The Khan faction is also continuing to fight. Khan's Pakistan Justice Party was able to turn out hundreds of thousands of people on April 10 to protest their ouster from the government.

Workers fight back

While the bosses battle over control of Pakistan, the economic conditions are getting worse on a daily basis and the working class is dying because of unemployment and hunger. But the working-class fightback against exploitation, poverty, fascism and unemployment is gaining strength. People from every walk of life are angry with capitalism. Students, workers, women's groups and other professional organizations are demanding availability of cheap basic commodities, disparity allowances, employment, and shelters to live in but the Pakistani ruling class' infighting is diverting their attention from poverty and exploitation.

Now the Pakistan bosses are trying to divert the working class from blaming the Pakistani bosses and the capitalist system for the crisis by getting workers to choose sides in their battles. These are old tactics of the ruling class when people start to unite against the prevailing capitalist political system. The bosses try to divide workers in the name of religion, nationalism and personality cults. The upcoming elections are shaping up to be very violent as the bosses fight each other and try to mobilize the working class around nationalism and religious differences.

Building a communist movement

PLP is involved in organizing demonstrations, rallies and strikes of students for restoration of student's unions, decreasing tuition fees, security in the education institutions and stopping forced disappearances of student activists from campuses. We are trying to build a base in the factories where labor unions are banned and the contract (piece work) system prevails.

We are also working with teachers who are demonstrating against the government policies and are demanding a disparity allowance and a salary increase because some government departments' workers receive more pay and allowances than teachers.

PLP strives to bring more and more people onto the streets to chant against the capitalist horrors and fascism. From Brooklyn to Pakistan PLP is trying to build a united struggle against the exploitation, fundamentalism, fascism and unemployment which is the ultimate result of capitalism. In Pakistan, our participation in reform struggles are gaining respect among the workers and it seems that our politics is inspiring them to join the hands of comrades in struggle and fight not just for reforms but for workers' power. We are building a base for communist revolution.✪

Amazon workers wins union struggle, deserves liberation from profit system

Staten Island, NY, April 12—Against all odds, Amazon workers in New York dared to struggle, and won! United—Black, Latin, Asian, white—these young workers have formed the Amazon Labor Union (ALU), an independent union representing the workers in an Amazon shipping warehouse on Staten Island. While politicians, reaching up to President Joe Biden, and so-called labor leaders now congratulate the new union and pledge their support, they were almost nowhere to be found as the workers began and carried through their struggle. While unions are not the solution for liberating workers from capitalism, Progressive Labor Party (PLP) applauds the workers' integrated fightback at Staten Island's Amazon shipping warehouse The commitment to their fellow workers is emblematic of how strikes and organizing become schools for communism. Until our international revolution is won, these lessons are hugely beneficial to our political growth and movement.

Whether the new union will get the support they need or mere lip service is now the question. Jeff Bezos' Amazon giant has already begun its campaign to get the union election results thrown out and a new election held. Whether Amazon succeeds or not, the ALU then faces the challenge of getting Amazon to the table to bargain fairly for the contract provisions the workers are demanding - safer, better, more humane working conditions and wages high enough to support a family.



Facts! Workers don't need fake liberal politicians. ALU leader Chris smalls should join PLP

Workers of the world unite

At a rally before the election, one of the ALU leaders said that as he suffered the horrid working conditions in the warehouse, he at first asked why no one could help him and his fellow workers. Then, he realized that it was not a question of an outside savior. It was up to him and the others directly affected to begin and struggle through until they won what they needed, not allowing racist and sexist ideas to divide them. That is a lesson that all workers ought to take to heart. We need to rely on each other, not phony politicians who want photo-ops and our votes, or labor misleaders that want to co-opt us and suck up dues money.

The ALU is rightly trying to extend its organizing efforts to other Amazon locations, and Amazon will fight them tooth and nail. The NLRB has ruled in the union's favor and certified the election, as Biden and the rulers he represents are trying to put on a worker-friendly face. What the ALU has to realize is that the government, the state, and its organs like the NLRB are not neutral. The United States is controlled by a capitalist class, and its institutions will always bend to the capitalists' will.

Amazon and all other companies exist for one purpose: to make profits. To make profits, employers MUST exploit their workers. Currently, Bezos is a better exploiter, hence his staggering wealth. In the struggle against the Amazon bosses, ALU workers learned that to get what they needed, they had to fight for it themselves. The next lesson to be learned is that to get and KEEP what they need, Amazon workers and all workers must fight to destroy the capitalist exploiters and replace their system with communism, a system run by and for workers to fulfill workers' needs, not to generate profits for a few.

The Progressive Labor Party is organizing workers and students worldwide with just that goal in mind. Join us!✪

Black communists in the Spanish Civil War
Admiral Kilpatrick goes 'all the way!'

This is part five of a series about Black communists in the Spanish Civil War. In the early 1930s, Spain's urban bourgeoisie (capitalists), supported by most workers and many peasants, overthrew the violent, repressive monarchy to form a republic. In July 1936 the Spanish army, eventually commanded by Francisco Franco, later the fascist dictator, rebelled to reestablish the repressive monarchy. Hitler's Germany and Mussolini's Italy gave Franco massive military aid.

In 1936 the International Communist Movement, called the Comintern, headquartered in the Soviet Union and led by Joseph Stalin, organized volunteers, mainly workers from more than 60 countries into the International Brigades (IBs) to go to Spain to defend the Republic. Black workers, especially Black communists, emphasized the importance of fighting racism to win anything for the working class. And they brought this antiracist fightback with them when they returned to the United States.

But, in defending the Republic, they were defending capitalists. This was part of the united front against fascism, where communists united with so-called liberal capitalists against the fascist capitalists.

In the Progressive Labor Party (PLP), we are against any unity with capitalists. They all have to go, and the working class must rule: that's communism.

If the working class is to seize and hold state power throughout the world, Black workers and their leadership are essential. Without their leadership, our class cannot destroy racism—the lifeblood of capitalism. The following continues that story:

Admiral Kilpatrick was born in Denver on February 20, 1898. His father worked first as a cowboy in Oklahoma and then as a miner in Colorado. When Admiral was six years old, his father got a job with a steel company and moved the family to Cleveland, Ohio. Kilpatrick's father was a Socialist, and his son accompanied him to political meetings when he was as young as 12 years old.

He eventually joined the Socialist party and, when he was 19 years old, the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). After high school he worked in mills, foundries, electrical shops, and lumber camps. Kilpatrick joined the Army during World War I and served in France as a mechanic. Kilpatrick worked with the union in the 1919 Cleveland steel strike, in which the companies brought in thousands of Black workers to serve as strikebreakers.

Kilpatrick joins the CP

Kilpatrick joined the Communist Party (CPUSA) in 1928. In 1931 the Party sent him to study at the International Lenin School in the Soviet Union. In 1935, during the Great Depression, he returned to the United States and helped organize the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO - a communist-led union) and the unemployed movement (also led by communists).



Black communist Kilpatrick, pictured above, understood that in the class struggle you can't stay in it when it's good and jump out..whe its bad.

While the CP became a tremendous reform organization during the Great Depression, unfortunately, it gave up the fight for a communist revolution. So all the evils of capitalism are still with us today, from racist killings by the bosses' cops to homelessness and looming nuclear world war.

Before World War II, Kilpatrick went to fight in the Spanish Civil War against the fascists. He served in a transport unit, as an ambulance driver, and in an intelligence unit. While working as a frontline driver, Kilpatrick was wounded by shrapnel from an aerial bombardment.

Back in the U.S., he resumed his union activities becoming president of Local 735 of the Mine, Mill, and Smelter Workers. In the late 1940s the union was expelled from the CIO for being dominated by communists. The liberal capitalists were starting to take back whatever reforms the CP was able to win in the 1930s. Kilpatrick was called before congressional investigators during the Red Scare of the 1950s. He refused either to name other communists or to take the Fifth Amendment.

Kilpatrick: CP™gives up the class struggle"

Kilpatrick remained a committed Marxist. He was expelled from the CP "because I wasn't going to go along with the fact [that] now all of a sudden you can build a Party with all classes." His problems with Party leadership had begun during the Popular front , a coalition of working-class and middle-class parties. The very idea that the Party "was carrying on the traditions of Lincoln, Jefferson, and Douglass," in Kilpatrick's opinion, was "a lot of bull." He told an interviewer:

Any Party or grouping that calls itself communist, gives up the class struggle, and won't follow the road of Marxism-Leninism is completely out of step with what is going on in the world today. The revisionists, the scabs and sectarians have no answers to any questions in today's class struggle.

In the late 1950's, Kilpatrick, along with fellow Spanish Civil War veteran Harry Haywood, was involved in the short-lived Provisional Organizing Committee for a Communist Party, aiming to found a new, revolutionary communist party. They were not successful, but in the 1960's another group of CP members left to form Progressive Labor Movement, which today is the revolutionary communist Progressive Labor Party. Join us.

Admiral Kilpatrick in his own words:

In the class struggle you can't stay in it when it's good and jump out and leave it when it's bad. You go all the way …

I don't have to have no damn praise … about going to Spain ... But I wasn't doing it just for Spain alone. … I was doing it because I was a member of the movement that believes in that type of struggle ... I was a Communist. A Communist fights oppression, and they fight tyranny everywhere.

As far as I was concerned, this was the only way that the common man was to have anything, was to carry out these types of actions. My understanding of the world and its problems is based on Karl Marx's Communist Manifesto *and* Das Kapital.

I've been in jail so goddamn many times, I thought I was living in jail. You get in jail for demonstrations, you get in jail for standing up in strikes, violating strike regulations about how many pickets you can have ...

But in the class struggle you can't stay in it when it's good and jump out and leave it when it's bad. You go all the way. They send you to jail,what difference does it make? People have died for causes and things.

Kilpatrick continued his organizing even into retirement, serving as the chairman of the tenants' committee in his retirement home. He never found the organization that would, as he put it, "go all the way." Well, in the Progressive Labor Party we do want to "go all the way." Whatever fightback you are involved in, join us and integrate the fight for communist revolution to your struggle. Let's "go all the way!"

Source: http://alba-valb.org

CUNY: PLP builds for May Day

Continued from page 3

The liberal racist NYC mayor Eric Adams uses the families of tragic murder to push his own racist police agenda. But we're organizing against racist police terror and occupation, from Newark to Brooklyn. Through neighborhood student connections with the family of Kade Lewin, we plan to send a collective letter of sympathy and solidarity and call a rally in East Flatbush. The working class of East Flatbush must not be punished! The NYPD, racist Democrat Eric Adams and "Jim Crow" Joe Biden are the real criminals and terrorists responsible for heinous crimes through the racist capitalist system they represent, and want millions of working-class youth to fight for U.S. imperialism and to die defending it!



Onward to May Day!

As we approach midterm exams this semester, our progress report so far includes more than 50 new Black, Latin and immigrant students organizing for fightback, and nineteen of our regular CHALLENGE readers among the students and campus workers taking the lead. CHALLENGE is discussed, debated and spreading within our campus antiracist club, with more fightback planned for the second half of the semester.

We also made collective plans for International Workers' Day, May Day. When some students raised safety concerns about protesting, we collectively agreed on a meeting spot for that day and traveling to Flatbush and Clarendon together.

While the imperialist capitalist bosses from the U.S. to Russia and China plunge the international working class into another world war, our Party is growing its ranks and building especially among young Black, immigrant and women workers who will build a Red Army and smash capitalism once and for all with communist revolution. ONWARD!✪

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.



I'm excited for May Day!

I was excited to see the announcement for May Day in the April 13 issue of the paper and hear workers' voices extolling its importance to them.

I went to my first May Day march in 1986. I was 22 years old. It was my first real political demonstration and it blew my mind. Never before had I seen people from so many different backgrounds united in common struggle. We marched as one force: militant, resolute, enthusiastic! It was thrilling and invigorating, a taste of workers' power.

I met people who came from many different countries, spoke different languages and had different customs, but who all realized that our world is gripped by a system that has utterly failed, and were unafraid to say, "Capitalism's gotta go!"

This year May Day is more important than ever as we confront yet another major imperialist war that threatens to erupt into world war. Bosses worldwide spend so much time and effort sowing nationalist divisions among the working class. But International Workers' Day is OUR day! It's our time to announce our presence throughout the world. WE ARE THE MIGHTY, UNITED WORKING CLASS!

Thank you, CHALLENGE, for continuing, in every issue, to hammer home the reality that capitalism cannot serve the needs of the world's workers and that the only true solution is communism. We have a lot to learn on this road, but we truly have A WHOLE WORLD TO WIN. March on May Day!

★★★★★

We exposed imperialist drive in Ukraine war

My comrades and I in the DC-Baltimore area recently held a Progressive Labor Party (PLP) cadre school. Three of us led it, although it was a full Party effort. Because of the current Ukraine conflict, we discussed imperialism, militarism, and racism. While I tend to get nervous with public speaking, I know it is important to practice speaking. The audience consisted of about 30 people, 10 of whom were friends of PL. We were able to record all the presentations to share with workers who couldn't make it. PL'ers and friends alike were receptive to our message, offered great feedback, and asked engaging questions.

My presentation on imperialism showed how it is the logical extension of finance capitalism. Another comrade showed how the military industrial complex was self-perpetuating and how the capitalist U.S. military is oppressive. The last presentation demonstrated how racism played an integral role in propaganda, justifying war and attempting to convince people how wars are or are not justified, based on a given boss's interest.

Then, we broke into small discussion groups. We discussed how, while it may appear that workers in the imperial core benefit from imperialism, it ultimately hurts all workers because it divides the working class and prevents communist revolution.

Finally, we applied our knowledge to the conflict in Ukraine in a discussion. The conflict is due to a variety of rival capitalist pursuits, fueled by NATO expansion, Ukrainian International Monetary Fund debt, and the 2014 coup in Ukraine (facilitated by the U.S.).

Meanwhile Russia is still an imperialist power that escalated the conflict. We also talked about the importance to the U.S. imperialists of the strength of the U.S. dollar and how this conflict is undermining it.

There is not a workers' side in this conflict. We need to build the working-class voice through communist revolution.

★★★★★

World war is coming

The war in Ukraine shows that U.S. imperialism is declining relative to Russian and Chinese imperialism. In *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism*, Lenin pointed out that wars to divide and redivide the world are inevitable so long as capitalism exists. At the moment, the U.S. is the preeminent imperialist power, and the dollar reigns supreme. Any country that dares to deviate from subservience to U.S. domination is bombed to total destruction or starved with sanctions. But the U.S. has not won a war since WWII and now it has to prepare for war with China and it must have allies.

The U.S. depends on NATO members, all without exception dependent on Russian energy and raw materials. Now imperialist bosses in Russia have required the bosses in Europe to pay for fuel with rubles (see editorial, page 2). The sanctions imposed on Russia have resulted in a major threat to the dollar's hegemony [dominance].

U.S. imperialism needs the war in Ukraine in preparation for WWIII. The longer they can prolong this war, the more false flag Russian "atrocities" they and their NAZI allies can create, and the better their chance to pry the Europeans free from Russian dependence.

Our Party must focus on the relationship between the war in Ukraine and the preparation for world war by the imperialist powers, especially the declining imperialist power, the U.S., a paper tiger with nuclear teeth, a giant with feet of clay.

We must emphasize the colossal racism underlying the news media response to the war in Ukraine and the Ukrainian refugees being welcomed in Poland while refugees from Afghanistan, Syria, and Iraq freeze in the forests of Belarus. We must point out to our friends the incredible subservience of the mainstream media to U.S. imperialist lies and propaganda. And we must build the Party, the only hope for the working class to emerge victoriously.

★★★★★

GLOSSARY

COMMUNIST TERMS

Fascism

Capitalism's response to a crisis of their system, when the bosses can no longer sustain the charade of liberal democracy and resort to more direct control and state terror instead. Fascism is marked by the ruling capitalists disciplining their own ranks to serve the urgent needs of the capitalist state and weather the crisis. To defend their system from internal and external threats, they use all the means available in their state apparatus, including violence. To build unity within their class and loyalty from workers, they rely on nationalist politics and calls for sacrifice. Their strategy is to mislead the working class to kill our working class sisters and brothers in the next inter-imperialist war.

Big Fascists

The Big Fascists are the dominant finance capitalist faction of the U.S. ruling class. They represent the wealthiest and most powerful bosses in the U.S., including multinational banks like Chase and Citibank, multinational oil companies like ExxonMobil, the big automakers, Boeing, Amazon, and the major media companies. As the dominant grouping since World War II, the Big Fascists were the architects of the liberal world order with the U.S. bosses on top. Their dominance rests on U.S. financial and military power and its strategic control of the Middle East and the flow of oil to Europe, Asia, and Africa. To sustain this dominance, they need to rebuild a huge, multiracial military for inter-imperialist war, most likely with China.

Small Fascists

The Small Fascists are a group of domestically oriented U.S. capitalists who are challenging the Big Fascists over the direction of U.S. imperialism. Since their interests are less tied to controlling the flow of oil, they are against heavy taxation to keep troops in the Middle East and in general oppose costly military bases and invasions. They're willing to rely on a smaller, whiter army, backed by nuclear weapons and the Air Force. They use open racism to build a political following.

Chant for May Day (1938)



The following performtive poem by Langston Hughes, a Black communist poet, is replicated here in its original form.

To be read by a Work[wo]man with, for background, the rhythmic waves of rising and re-rising Mass Voices, multiplying like the roar of the sea.

WORKER: The first of May: When the flowers break through the earth, When the sap rises in the trees. When the birds come back from the South.

Workers: Be like the flowers,
10 VOICES: Bloom in the strength of your unknown power,
20 VOICES: Grow out of the passive earth,
40 VOICES: Grow strong with Union, All hands together— To beautify this hour, this spring,

And all the springs to come
50 VOICES: Forever for the workers!

WORKER: Workers

10 VOICES: Be like the sap rising in the trees,

20 VOICES: Strengthening each branch,

40 VOICES: No part neglected—

50 VOICES: Reaching all the world.

WORKER: All workers:

10 VOICES: White workers,

10 OTHERS: Black workers,

10 OTHERS: Yellow workers,

10 OTHERS: Workers in the islands of the sea—

50 VOICES: Life is everywhere for you,

WORKER: When the sap of your own strength rises

50 VOICES: Life is everywhere.

10 VOICES: *May Day!*

20 VOICES: *May Day!*

40 VOICES: *May Day!*

50 VOICES: When the earth is new,

WORKER: Proletarians of all the world:

20 VOICES: Arise,

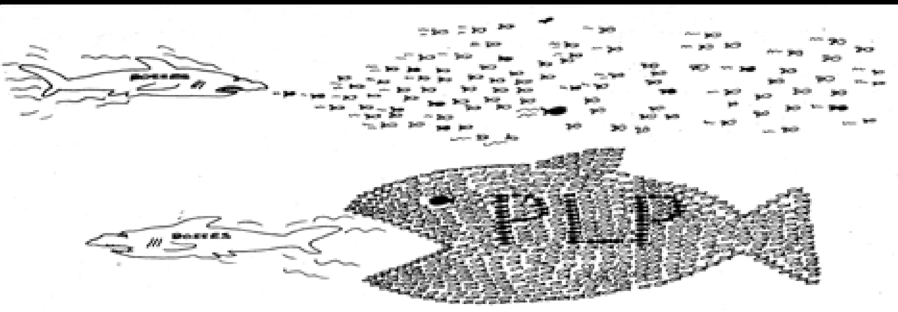
40 VOICES: Grow strong,

60 VOICES: Take Power,

80 VOICES: Till the forces of the earth are yours

100 VOICES: From this hour.

May Day: fight for workers' power



Continued from page

Turning imperialist war into class war

As it progressed, the international communist movement took up the struggle and organized May 1st celebrations every year. In the U.S., it was championed for many years by the old Communist Party, with 250,000 marching in New York City in the 1940s.

But when that old party abandoned its principles, May Day was resurrected by the Progressive Labor Party in 1971 which advanced more revolutionary ideas. May Day marches have been organized by the PLP for the past 35 years, in many cities — Washington, D.C., New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Boston, Philadelphia, Detroit, Houston, Delano, and others, as well as PLP contingents in Latin America.

The rulers appear strong, and we shouldn't delude ourselves about the enormous advantages they hold over us. But they have many weaknesses as well. They can't hold power without oppressing us. They can't rule the world without driving their rivals to unite against them. Capitalism is an unstable system. It will always lead to war (see editorial, page 2).

History shows that communist revolutions can seize power in the turmoil of imperialist war. The Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 was the most profound event of the last millennium. The Chinese Revolution of 1949 and the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution of the 1960s again shook the world.

On May Day we march to remind us of our heroism as a class, reminding workers that we can no longer settle for dead-end reforms that force our class to coexist within a system that hates our existence.

Workers from China, the Soviet Union, to Cuba, have taken power and created worker's societies, albeit fraught with errors and defeats, but left us with lessons from which to build the foundation for the egalitarian communist society we desperately need and deserve. Now more than ever we must build the Party, day-by-day, May Day marcher by May Day marcher, Challenge sub by Challenge sub, recruit by recruit, struggle by struggle for the liberation of our class. Join us!✪

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Capitalist drugs kill Black and white workers all the same

The Economist, 4/9–The familiar face of America's opioid epidemic has long been white men from a post-industrial town in the Appalachian mountains. White victims have accounted for 78 percent of the more than 500,000 opioid-overdose deaths since the late 1990s. In 2017, counties in Appalachia experienced rates 72 percent higher than the average for the rest of the country. Black workers were, for once, far less affected. But that has changed. In 2020, Black people's rate of opioid-related deaths surpassed white people's—the culmination of a grim trend some five years in the making. The first epidemic wave was caused by drug companies and doctors pushing prescription opioid Fentanyl, a synthetic opioid up to 50 times more potent than heroin, brought the third wave. In 2020, Black men aged 55 to 64 died at over 2.5 times the rate of older white men. Poor people are more than twice as likely to die of opioid overdose.

War in Ukraine escalates to bigger weapons

New York Times, 4/9–Slovakia's decision to provide Ukraine with a Soviet-era S-300 air defense unit, a move made with the blessing of the United States, represents a new phase in the war, as allied countries look to help the Ukrainian military hold off an expected offensive from a newly concentrated Russian force and better prepare for a potentially long conflict.

In the early days of the invasion, NATO countries were quick to send short-range, defensive weapons to take out tanks and aircraft, including Javelin, NLAW and Stinger missiles, which were light, portable, high-tech, and easy to use with little training.

But now, the allied governments have shown a willingness to send heavier weaponry more suited to the coming battle in Donbas, including tanks and longer-range defensive weapons such as the S-300s, a Russian-made surface-to-air system used mainly to attack enemy aircraft. On Saturday, Britain said it would provide 120 armored vehicles and new anti-ship missile systems to the Ukrainian military.

Capitalist pollsters study U.S worker's support for WWIII

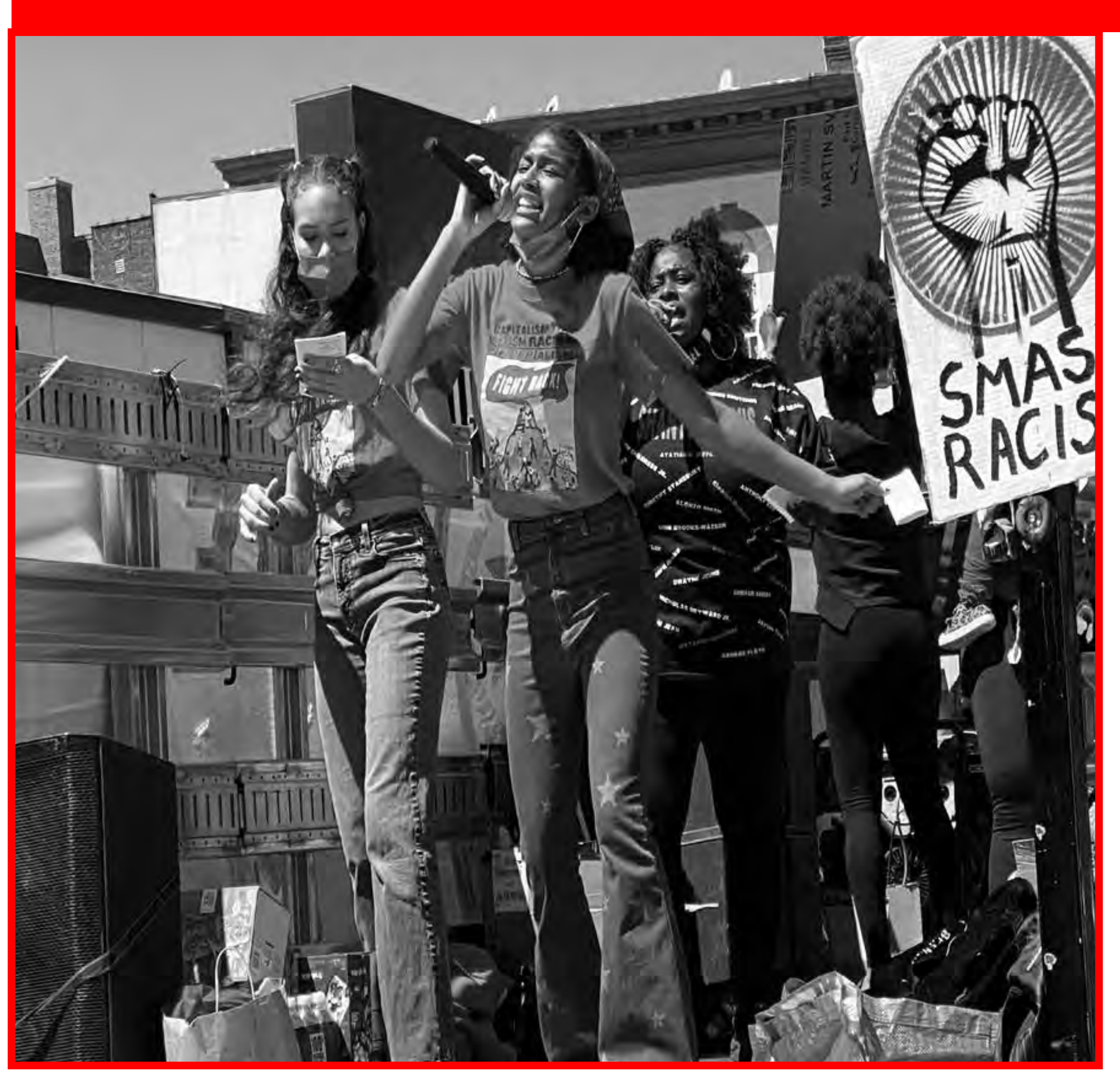
Brookings, 4/8–Despite strong public concerns about military confrontation with Russia and even about possible nuclear conflict, most Americans said they would support applying a no-fly zone over Ukraine if the war persists (Brookings, 4/8). Those who primarily get their news from FOX tended to be less supportive of the no-fly zone than viewers of other major outlets (54 percent compared to 70 percent for MSNBC viewers and 62 percent of CNN viewers). … Two-thirds of Democrats who rely on social media for political news supported a no-fly zone, while 60 percent of such Republicans opposed one… a majority of those who supported a no-fly zone (64 percent) also said they were reluctant to risk American lives. This absence of linkage in the public perceptions, apparently across the partisan divide, and regardless of the sources of news — coupled with increasing Ukrainian devastation and civilian casualties, as well as proliferating reports of atrocities by Russian troops — are keys to understanding emerging public openness to imposing a no-fly zone over Ukraine.

China and U.S. fight for control of Pakistan

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan has been deposed by a no-confidence vote in parliament, days after he blocked a similar attempt (Al Jazeera, 4/9). The passing of the motion on Saturday came after the country's Supreme Court ruled the cricket star-turned-politician acted unconstitutionally in previously blocking the process and dissolving parliament.

The no-confidence motion, which required 172 votes in the 342-seat parliament to pass, was supported by 174 lawmakers. Khan, who alleged the opposition colluded with the United States to unseat him, on Friday called on his supporters to stage rallies nationwide on Sunday…army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa allayed some fears last weekend by saying good relations with the United States remain high on Pakistan's agenda – and the military holds huge sway regardless of the civilian administration in power.

March for communism!



★Celebrate with PLP★

Saturday, April 30

Chicago: march at 12 PM CT. Intersection of 35th Street and MLK Drive

★

Worcester, MA: march at 2 PM ET. Intersection of Park Ave and Highland Street in Elm Park. Followed by picnic.

★

Los Angeles: dinner program from 4—7PM PT

★

★ Brooklyn: march at 12 PM ET. Intersection of Clarendon and Flatbush Avenues

On this day, we march for the universal demands of all workers: against imperialist war, against racism and sexism, for the unity of immigrant and citizen workers, against wage slavery, against fascist police terror, and for the communist solution to all these attacks facing the international working class.

In this period, there is so much to make our class fearful and raging with anger. As the inter-imperialist rivalry between the bosses in the U.S - NATO, Russia, and China intensifies, workers are bearing the brunt of it from East Africa to Yemen. The dog fight for oil and resources is heightening starvation and poverty, and the bosses have sacrificed millions to be murdered by Covid-19.

Still, there is so much to celebrate in the midst of the bosses' crises, from coast to coast workers continue to lead militant struggles against the bosses. From women workers in Haiti who shut it down, taking the streets with their working-class brothers and sisters declaring " we fought for independence and we refuse to be re-enslaved." In New York, Amazon workers led a militant and sharp struggle to unionize, halting production in the warehouses of the second wealthiest bosses on the planet. In Alabama, miners are staging one of the longest strikes in U.S. history. In India, 50 million workers led a two-day national strike that brought six states in the country to a standstill.

These fightbacks offer us glimmers of hope that our class will one day be the human race. With this unwavering faith in our class, we march on April 30 in New York City and Chicago, hundreds of workers, students, and soldiers will march for communist revolution, workers' dictatorship, and a world free of the profit system's horrors. In Los Angeles, many will celebrate at a dinner program around the same theme. In order to win these goals, our Party must grow until our numbers are in the millions. To win a communist world, we must become billions.

Straight out of class struggle

While the bosses try to smear May Day as being "imported from Soviet Russia," it remains U.S. workers' contribution to the world's workers born in the actions of those Chicago strikers. In 1884, the AFL passed a resolution to make eight hours "a legal day's labor from and after May 1, 1886." Workers were forced to labor "from sun-up to sundown," up to 14 hours a day. The Chicago Central Labor Council then called for a general strike on May 1, 1886, to demand the 8-hour day.

May Day was born out of — and honors — the Chicago workers' historic struggle for the 8-hour day on May 1, 1886, launching a general strike that spread to 350,000 workers across the country. It's a day when workers around the globe march for their common demands, signifying international working-class solidarity.

On that day, Chicago stood still as "Tens of thousands downed their tools and moved into the streets. No smoke curled from the tall chimneys of the factories and mills," reported one paper.

On May 3, the cops murdered at least two strikers at the McCormick Reaper Works. The next day thousands marched in protest into Chicago's Haymarket Square. A bomb was thrown by a police agent. Four workers were killed, seven cops died and 200 workers were wounded in what became known as the Haymarket Massacre.

Nine demonstration leaders were framed for "instigating a riot." Four were hanged. A mass protest movement forced the Governor to free those still alive after the government admitted the frame-up.

From the beginning, May Day stood for working-class internationalism. History has shown us that the fight against racism and nationalism and for internationalism is the key to communist victory. The tens of thousands who won the 8-hour day saw it eroded, so another general strike was called for May 1, 1890. At the July 1889 meeting of the International Workers Association, organized and led by Karl Marx, the U.S. delegate reported on the struggle. The Association decided "to organize a great international demonstration, so that...on one appointed day the [world's] toiling masses shall demand..." the 8-hour day. "Since a similar demonstration has already been decided upon by the American Federation of Labor....this day is adopted for the international demonstration." This kind of international solidarity is vitally needed today.

Continued on page 7

CHALLENGE strives to be the communist paper for and by the international working class. We call on all readers, supporters, and comrades to submit class struggle articles, analytical pieces, original photos and graphics, letters, and political cartoons. The next deadline is the **Friday evening of April 22.** Send to desafio.challenge@gmail.com. For some guidance and house style rules, please go to www.bit.ly/338ZJow

All submissions are open to collective discussion, struggle, and change. See box on page 2 about fighting for collectivity and against a cult of the individual.

